

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 6, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 25, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 899**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Weber**

February 22, 2013

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An act to *amend Section 60811 of*, and to add Section 60811.4 *of to*, the Education Code, relating to academic content standards.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 899, as amended, Weber. *Academic content standards: English language development standards: English learners: mathematics: science: standards.*

**Existing**

(1) *Existing* law requires each school district that has one or more pupils who are English learners and, to the extent required by federal law, each county office of education and each charter school, to assess the English language development of each of those pupils upon initial enrollment in order to determine the level of proficiency of those pupils, and thereafter to assess each of those pupils annually until the pupil is redesignated as English proficient.

Existing law requires the State Board of Education to approve standards for English language development for pupils whose primary language is a language other than English. Existing law further requires that these standards be comparable in rigor and specificity to the statewide academically rigorous content standards for English language arts.

*This bill would instead require that the standards for English language development for pupils whose primary language is a language other than English be comparable in rigor and specificity to the academic content standards to which they are aligned, including specified standards for English language arts and mathematics and specified science content standards.*

**Existing**

(2) *Existing* law, which is to be repealed on July 1, 2013, requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with the state board, to update, revise, and align the English language development standards adopted pursuant to existing law to the state board-approved academic content standards for English language arts, as provided.

This bill would require the Superintendent, on or before January 1, 2015, to recommend modifications to the English language development standards to align with the state board-approved academic content standards for mathematics, and would ~~authorize~~ *also require* the Superintendent to recommend modifications to the English language development standards to align with the state board-approved science content standards, for adoption to the state board. The bill would require the Superintendent ~~and state board~~, to hold a minimum of 2 public meetings in order for the public to provide input regarding any modifications to the English language development standards.

The bill would require the state board, on or before August 1, 2015, to adopt or reject the Superintendent's recommendations for the alignment of the English language development standards with the state board-approved academic content standards for mathematics and science, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 *SECTION 1. Section 60811 of the Education Code is amended*
- 2 *to read:*
- 3 60811. The state board shall approve standards for English
- 4 language development for pupils whose primary language is a
- 5 language other than English. The standards shall be comparable
- 6 in rigor and specificity to *the academic content standards to which*
- 7 *they are aligned, including the standards for English language arts*

1 *and mathematics* adopted pursuant to Section 60605.8 *and the*  
2 *science content standards adopted pursuant to Section 60605.85.*

3 **SECTION 1.**

4 *SEC. 2.* Section 60811.4 is added to the Education Code, to  
5 read:

6 60811.4. (a) On or before January 1, 2015, the Superintendent  
7 shall recommend to the state board modifications to the English  
8 language development standards, adopted pursuant to Section  
9 60811, to align with the academic content standards for  
10 mathematics adopted by the state board pursuant to Section  
11 60605.8. If the state board modifies the English language  
12 development standards to align with the academic content standards  
13 for mathematics, it shall explain, in writing, to the Governor and  
14 the Legislature the reasons for the modification. The  
15 Superintendent's recommendations and the state board's actions  
16 shall assist schools in the implementation and application of  
17 English language development standards in the mathematics subject  
18 area.

19 (b) On or before January 1, 2015, the Superintendent ~~may~~ *shall*  
20 recommend to the state board modifications to the English language  
21 development standards, adopted pursuant to Section 60811, to  
22 align with the science content standards adopted by the state board  
23 pursuant to Section 60605.85. If the state board modifies the  
24 English language development standards to align with the science  
25 content standards, it shall explain, in writing, to the Governor and  
26 the Legislature the reasons for the modification. The  
27 Superintendent's recommendations and the state board's actions  
28 shall assist schools in the implementation and application of  
29 English language development standards in the science subject  
30 area.

31 (c) In carrying out subdivisions (a) and (b), the Superintendent  
32 ~~and the state board~~ shall hold a minimum of two public meetings  
33 pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9  
34 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of  
35 Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code) in order for the  
36 public to provide input regarding any modifications recommended  
37 pursuant to this section.

38 (d) On or before August 1, 2015, the state board shall do both  
39 of the following:

- 1 (1) Adopt or reject the Superintendent's recommendations for  
2 the alignment of the English language development standards  
3 adopted pursuant to Section 60811 with the state board-approved  
4 academic content standards for mathematics adopted pursuant to  
5 Section 60605.8.
- 6 (2) Adopt or reject the Superintendent's recommendations for  
7 the alignment of the English language development standards  
8 adopted pursuant to Section 60811 with the state board-approved  
9 academic content standards for science adopted pursuant to Section  
10 60605.85.